

The Michigan State Transportation Commission formally adopted a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process in 2005 as part of the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) mission to provide the highest quality integrated transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life. Under CSS, MDOT solicits dialogue early in the planning process with local governments, road commissions,

industry groups, land use advocates, and state agencies. This dialogue helps to ensure these bridges, interchanges, bike paths and other transportation projects "fit" into their communities. The CSS approach results in projects that respect a community's scenic, aesthetic, historic, economic, and environmental character.

The Adopt-A-Landscape Program exists within MDOT's Right-of-Way trunkline jurisdiction and must also adhere to the CSS process. For more information, please see the MDOT Web site at:

<http://www.michigan.gov/adoptalandscape>



A NEW PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITIES



Providing the highest quality integrated transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life.

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What is the Adopt-A-Landscape Program?

The Adopt-A-Landscape Program provides individuals, organizations, or businesses an opportunity to help maintain sections of roadside within Michigan's state highway system. In addition to the aesthetic benefits of cleaner and more beautiful roadsides, your participation will help to prevent potential pollutants from entering our waterways.

The Adopt-A-Landscape program provides a great opportunity to promote civic responsibility, community pride, and camaraderie within your organization. Although the Adopt-A-Landscape Program may not be used as a forum for advertising or public discourse, Adopt-A-Landscape courtesy signs provide you or your group with name recognition in your community.

What is required to participate?

Your time and effort, it's that easy! Participants may choose one or more of the following activities:

- Planting and establishing landscaping within interchanges, boulevards, rest areas, roadside parks, etc.
- Planting and establishing trees, shrubs, and/or flowers along state highways
- Planting and establishing wildflowers
- Removing graffiti as needed from one or more highway structures
- Controlling weeds on Right-of-Way
- Ancillary mowing
- Tree trimming and/or removal



Is there a fee?

Yes, there is a minimal permit fee based on the size and scale of the area being adopted. Volunteer groups/organizations may perform Adopt-a-Landscape activities and be charged a discounted permit fee or even have the fee waived in some cases.

Participating groups generally provide all costs, materials, labor, and equipment necessary for the project.

MDOT will supply the following items free of charge:

- Safety vests for volunteer participants
- Safety training materials for group use.
- Adopt-a-Landscape signs when the appropriate distance is landscaped as follows:
 - On roadways where the speed limit is 45 miles per hour or less, one mile of landscaping is required for an Adopt-a-Landscape sign.
 - On roadways where the speed limit is greater than 45 miles per hour, two miles of landscaping are required for an Adopt-a-Landscape sign.

Who Is Eligible?

Just about any group, business or individual may perform the work using your own volunteers and/or hire a contractor to perform the work on your behalf.

How Long Do Adoptions Last?

Adoptions for locations inside of Rest Areas require a one year commitment. However, adoptions for locations outside of Rest Areas require a five year commitment. You may extend the agreement provided that you (or your contractor) have satisfactorily met the terms of the permit and the site remains suitable for adoption. You may not transfer your permit to another organization.

How Do I Adopt-A-Landscape?

1. Decide on the general location you want.
2. Submit Adopt-A-Landscape Interest Form (Form 3748) to your local TSC Manager or Lansing Real Estate Central Office. Obtain local TSC contact information at our website: www.michigan.gov/adoptandscape or contact Lansing Real Estate Central Office at (517) 241-3028.
3. The local TSC Manager will contact the applicant
4. Submit the Individual Application & Permit-Use of State Trunkline Right of Way, (MDOT Form 2205) and all the additional information required. Handouts or brochures are available from your TSC Construction Permit Agent and on the MDOT Web site at www.michigan.gov/adoptandscape with instructions for preparing plans/schedules.
5. Receive your issued permit to arrive in the mail. This may take several weeks.

What if the Section of Land I want is already adopted?

Permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. You may wish to contact your TSC Construction Permit Agent or consider adopting another location.